

Message Text

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20

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 M-02 A-01 OMB-01 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01

IO-14 DRC-01 /126 W

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R 260502Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3511

INFO AMCONSUL BRISBANE BY POUCH

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL PERTH BY POUCH

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 4015

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AS, US

SUBJECT: RE-ELECTED VICTORIAN LABOR SENATOR SHARPLY CRITICIZES
AMBASSADOR GREEN

1. SUMMARY: IN STATEMENT READ IN MELBOURNE JUNE 25 SENATOR WILLIAM BROWN (ALP, VICTORIA) ATTACKED AMBASSADOR GREEN AS TOP U.S. DIPLOMATIC "HATCHET MAN" AND OMINOUSLY SUGGESTED AUSTRALIA IS IN PERIL BECAUSE AMBASSADOR IS HERE. ATTACK WIDELY REPORTED IN MEDIA, BUT MELBOURNE "AGE" DISMISSED IT AS GRATUITOUS COMMENT, ADDED THAT "WILD THOUGHTS OF CHAIRMAN BILL DO NOT WARRANT SERIOUS CONSIDERATION," AND TERMED BROWN'S COMMENTS "MENTAL MEANDERINGS OF A LABOR PARTY LIGHTWEIGHT." EMBASSY HAS DECLINED TO DIGNIFY BROWN'S REMARKS WITH COMMENT. EPISODE APPEARS TO BE PART OF CONTINUING EFFORT BY SOCIALIST LEFT IN ALP IN VICTORIA (WITH WHICH BROWN HAS LONG BEEN CONNECTED) TO DEPICT AMBASSADOR AS DANGER TO AUSTRALIA. BROWN'S REMARKS ATTRACTED ATTENTION BECAUSE HE IS MEMBER OF FEDERAL PARLIAMENT. END SUMMARY.

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2. IN STATEMENT ISSUED AT "DECLARATION OF POLL" (I.E., OFFICIAL

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SENATE ELECTION OUTCOME) IN MELBOURNE JUNE 25
SENATOR WILLIAM W. BROWN (LABOR, VICTORIA) MADE FOLLOWING SHARP
ATTACK ON AMBASSADOR GREEN, INTERSPERSED WITH GENERAL ATTACK ON
OPPOSITION PARTIES AND FOREIGN CAPITAL. BROWN WAS NOT PRESENT,
BUT HIS STATEMENT WAS READ FOR HIM BY TED MCCORMICK, OF THE
COMMUNIST-LINE WATERSIDE WORKERS FEDERATION.

3. QTE NO DOUBT MANY EYEBROWS WILL BE RAISED, AND EXCEPTION TAKEN
TO WHAT I AM ABOUT TO RELATE NOW.

QTE THIS CONCERNS ME NOT, WHEN I HAVE GROUNDS TO BELIEVE MY
PEOPLE ARE IN PERIL.

QTE IT IS NO COINCIDENCE THAT MARSHALL GREEN WAS APPOINTED
AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRALIA SHORTLY AFTER LABOR WAS DEMOCRAT-
ICALLY ELECTED TO GOVERNMENT IN DECEMBER, 1972.

QTE THIS INDIVIDUAL'S RECORD SINCE JOINING AMERICA'S DIPLOMATIC
SERVICE IN 1939 HAS TO BE READ TO BE BELIEVED.

QTE HE COULD APTLY BE DESCRIBED AS THE TOP U.S. HATCHET MAN.
WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS WHEREVER HE HAS BEEN POSTED OR OTHERWISE
INVOLVED THERE HAS BEEN A BLOOD BATH AND/OR A COUP OF SOME
DESCRIPTION.

QTE HIS RECORD IS READILY AVAILABLE FROM THE AUSTRALIAN
PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SECTION, PARLIAMENT
HOUSE, CANBERRA.

QTE YOU WILL ASK THE QUESTION - WHAT IS THE CONNECTION? THIS
IS THE ANSWER - AMBASSADOR GREEN IS HERE TO PROTECT AMERICAN
FINANCIAL INTERESTS AND THE MAINTENANCE OF ITS MILITARY INSTALL-
ATIONS IN THIS COUNTRY. THE OPPOSITION HERE, AS IN THE PAST, IS A
WILLING COLLABORATOR. END QTE.

4. NEWS OF BROWN'S STATEMENT HAS RECEIVED PROMINENT PLAY IN
AUSTRALIAN MEDIA. MELBOURNE "AGE" JUNE 26 REPORTS STATEMENT AND
CIRCUMSTANCES EXTENSIVELY AND CARRIES EDITORIAL ENTITLED "THOUGHTS
OF CHAIRMAN BILL," NOTING BROWN'S EXTENSIVE LEFTIST CONNECTIONS
(HE WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE VICTORIAN BRANCH OF THE ALP, 1965-68, WHEN
THE STATE PARTY WAS A LEFTIST FIEF). EDITORIAL CONTINUES THAT
BROWN STATEMENT "WOULD HARDLY HAVE BEEN WORTH REPORTING, HAD NOT
SENATOR BROWN CHOSEN IN THE COURSE OF IT TO DELIVER A GRATUITOUS
ATTACK ON THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRALIA, MR. MARSHALL GREEN.
MR. GREEN, HE SAID, WAS THE TOP U.S. HATCHET MAN... TAKE HEED, BE
VIGILANT, SENATOR BROWN WARNS, OR AUSTRALIA WILL BECOME ANOTHER
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CHILE. THE U.S. EMBASSY IN CANBERRA YESTERDAY REFUSED TO
DIGNIFY THE ATTACK WITH A REPLY. IT WAS A SOUND DECISION.
ALTHOUGH SENATOR BROWN IS CHAIRMAN OF THE FEDERAL PARLIAMENTARY
LABOR PARTY, THE WILD THOUGHTS OF CHAIRMAN BILL DO NOT WARRANT
SERIOUS CONSIDERATION....TO SUGGEST THAT MR. GREEN WAS POSTED HERE
TO ENGINEER A REVOLUTION OR THAT AUSTRALIA IS RIPE FOR REVOLUTION
IN THE FIRST PLACE, IS BOTH MISCHIEVOUS AND LAUGHABLE." EDITORIAL
CONCLUDES THAT BROWN'S "....INSULTS MAY BE GIVEN AN INFLATED

IMPORTANCE IN AMERICA, AND THAT THEY WILL BE SEEN AS REPRESENTING THE FEELINGS OF THE LABOR PARTY, AND NOT WHAT THEY ARE IN FACT; THE MENTAL MEANDERINGS OF A LABOR PARTY LIGHTWEIGHT. PRESUMABLY, MR. WHITLAM WILL DELIVER A SHARP REBUKE TO THE VICTORIAN SENATOR. HE DESERVES IT."

5. APART FROM "AGE" EDITORIAL, NO OTHER MEDIA COMMENT HAS YET APPEARED. HOWEVER, MANFRED CROSS, ALP MEMBER OF FEDERAL HOUSE FOR BRISBANE AND CHAIRMAN OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE IN LABOR CAUCUS IN OUTGOING PARLIAMENT, COMMENTED ON BROWN STATEMENT. HE SAID, "I CONSIDER IT A COMPLIMENT TO AUSTRALIA THAT A PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMAT OF SUCH HIGH STANDING WAS APPOINTED TO AUSTRALIA AT A TIME WHEN THE LABOR GOVERNMENT WAS SEEKING TO GIVE NEW DIRECTION TO AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN POLICY. AMBASSADOR GREEN IS THERE TO CARRY OUT THE POLICY OF HIS GOVERNMENT IN THE SAME WAY AS AUSTRALIAN DIPLOMATS ABROAD CARRY OUT THE POLICY OF THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT."

6. OPPOSITION SPOKESMAN ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN FEDERAL PARLIAMENT, ANDREW PEACOCK, DESCRIBED BROWN'S REMARKS AS "A CONTINUATION OF THE PARANOID ANTI-AMERICAN ATTITUDE TAKEN BY LEFT-WING MEMBERS OF THE ALP."

7. SENATOR BROWN WAS APPOINTED TO THE SENATE BY THE VICTORIAN PARLIAMENT ON NOVEMBER 19, 1969, TO FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF THE LATE SENATOR S. H. COHEN. HE WAS RE-ELECTED TO THE SENATE IN 1970 AND AGAIN IN 1974, WHEN HE WAS LISTED FIRST ON THE ALP SLATE, A TESTIMONY TO HIS PERSONAL STANDING IN THE VICTORIAN ALP. HE HAS TAKEN ONLY A MINOR PART IN SENATE DEBATES AND HAS ATTRACTED LITTLE PUBLIC ATTENTION PREVIOUSLY, THOUGH HE IS CHAIRMAN OF THE ALP CAUCUS AND WAS A FEDERAL VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE ALP IN 1969-70.

8. BROWN WAS BORN DEC 12, 1920, IN BRUNSWICK, VICTORIA, IN
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MELBOURNE METROPOLITAN AREA. DETAILS OF HIS EDUCATION ARE UNAVAILABLE, BUT HE IS LISTED AS A CABINET MAKER BY PROFESSION, AND HE HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN TRADE UNION AFFAIRS. HE WAS PRESIDENT OF THE MELBOURNE TRADES HALL COUNCIL AND WAS ACTU DELEGATE TO THE 1963 CONFERENCE OF THE ILO IN GENEVA.

9. COMMENT: AMCONSUL MELBOURNE WILL BE REPORTING MORE EXTENSIVELY ON BACKGROUND TO BROWN'S STATEMENT AND ON HIS POLITICAL RECORD. GENERAL TENOR OF BROWN'S STATEMENT IS CONSISTENT WITH EFFORTS LAUNCHED IN EARLY 1973 BY SOCIALIST LEFT IN VICTORIA TO DEPICT AMBASSADOR AS DANGER TO AUSTRALIA. THIS WAS SIMPLY ANOTHER EPISODE IN SAME CAMPAIGN, BUT IT ATTRACTED PUBLIC ATTENTION BECAUSE IT WAS MADE BY MEMBER OF FEDERAL PARLIAMENT. BROWN'S LEFTIST CONNECTIONS UNDERLINED BY FACT STATEMENT WAS READ TO PRESS BY OFFICIAL OF COMMUNIST-LINE UNION. FURTHER REACTIONS COMING IN

WILL BE SUBJECT SEPTTEL. END COMMENT.
GREEN

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